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ECONOMIC RESEARCH  
AND ANALYSIS

**Ben Johnson®  
Associates, Inc**

July 22, 2021

Matthew C. Hall  
Procurement Director, Office of Administrative Services  
The South Carolina Department of Administration  
1200 Senate Street, Suite 408,  
Columbia, SC 29201

**Re: Final Conflict Check**  
**Solicitations #5400021595, #5400021596, #5400021598**

Dear Mr. Hall:

I am writing to provide you with the results of our final "Conflict Check" in the avoided cost proceedings. I have carefully reviewed the list of parties to these proceedings, as set forth in the Revised Hearing Officer Directive dated July 21, 2021, and compared this information to (a) our current clients, (b) our pending contract negotiations and proposals, and (c) our clients and consulting engagements over the past year.

I am hereby confirming that Ben Johnson Associates, Inc. does not have any actual or potential conflicts of interest with respect to any of the following parties, or any of the members of these associations or groups:

**Docket No. 2021-88-E: Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.'s 2021  
Avoided Cost Proceeding Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-41-20(A)**

- Dominion Energy South Carolina, Incorporated (DESC)
- Johnson Development Associates (JDA)
- South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs
- Carolina Clean Energy Business Association (CCEBA)
- Pine Gate Renewables, LLC
- South Carolina Coastal Conservation League and Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (CCL and SACE)
- Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS)

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**Docket No. 2021-89-E: Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC's 2021 Avoided Cost Proceeding Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-41-20(A)**

- Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC)
- Johnson Development Associates (JDA)
- South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA)
- Carolina Clean Energy Business Association (CCEBA)
- South Carolina Coastal Conservation League and Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (CCL and SACE)
- Pelzer Hydro Company, LLC (Pelzer); Aquaenergy Systems, LLC (Aquaenergy); and Northbrook Carolina Hydro, LLC (Northbrook)
- Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS)

**Docket No. 2021-90-E: Duke Energy Progress, LLC's 2021 Avoided Cost Proceeding Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-41-20(A)**

- Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP)
- Johnson Development Associates (JDA)
- South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA)
- Carolina Clean Energy Business Association (CCEBA)
- South Carolina Coastal Conservation League and Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (CCL and SACE)
- Pelzer Hydro Company, LLC (Pelzer); Aquaenergy Systems, LLC (Aquaenergy); and Northbrook Carolina Hydro, LLC (Northbrook)
- Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS)

I would also note that we will accept an appropriately worded contractual provision that prohibits the firm and its principals from entering into any contract negotiations, consulting engagements or other actual or potential conflicts of interest with these parties or the members of these associations or groups for the duration of the contract plus a reasonable period beyond.

Please let me know if you need any further clarification, or additional information.

Sincerely,



Ben Johnson, Ph.D.  
President and Consulting Economist